



BOROUGH OF ABERGAVENNY

Medical Officer

OF

Health's Report

1963



S. M. R. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Annual Report

1963

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

Frequent reference has been made to the remarkable decline in the incidence of infectious diseases in this country since the beginning of the century. During the same period other diseases have assumed far more importance and it seems that the future of the public health service lies largely in dealing with non-infectious conditions which, to day, are responsible for most morbidity and mortality.

An average of 20 people are killed in road accidents every day in this country, and another 250 people are seriously injured. Some 6,000 deaths and over 60,000 injuries occur annually. In 1957, the number of road accident fatalities exceeded the number of deaths from Tuberculosis for the first time and they now far out-number the deaths from Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Poliomyelitis combined. Indeed, road accidents are one of today's major public health hazards and are the commonest single killer of adolescents. The vehicle driver is not solely responsible, but it is he (or she) that has the potentially lethal weapon. Driving requires skill that must be maintained at a high level and part of the skill is to avoid situations that cause accidents. Education and propaganda in road safety must be particularly aimed at the young male motor-cyclist and the child cyclist. The pedestrian must also be educated, especially the elderly. The need for patrolled crossings for children has been recognised, but the danger to old people with failing senses is not yet fully appreciated. The magnitude of the problem must be recognised by the public because road safety demands community action.

Mortality figures in recent years have also focussed attention on the relative importance of accidents in the home, which cause over 8,000 deaths per annum in this country. Home accidents are not

notifiable but their incidence must be high. Analysis of hospital returns has shown that over 70,000 inpatients and 1½-million outpatients have been treated each year for injuries resulting from home accidents. Young children are particularly vulnerable and many of their accidents are avoidable. Burns and scalds are frequent and indicative of domestic malpractice. Falls occur at all ages, but are more often serious and fatal in the elderly. Accidents will always happen but the chances can be reduced by the promotion of safety measures in the home.

Government Departments, Local Authorities and Voluntary organisations have concerned themselves for many years with the problems associated with accidents generally and have organised considerable preventive action. Information has been repeatedly and widely disseminated through the Press, radio and television. Still, accident mortality continues to rise. Do we know enough about accidents? We may know some of the immediate causes, but what of the more remote? There seems to be a case for the notification of home and road accidents to assist in the investigation into their underlying causes and so indicate the way to more positive prevention.

Since the beginning of the century there has been a fall of about four-fifths in the infant mortality rate for England and Wales. The mortality of infants that survived the first week of life has fallen by over 90 per cent. due largely to the control of infectious diseases and respiratory conditions plus improved welfare and hygiene. During the same period, the deaths of infants under one week of age only showed a decline of 43 per cent. Although we see an improvement, the fall has not been nearly so marked as that associated with the older infant, because first week mortality is closely related to prenatal and intra-natal conditions. It is often a matter of chance whether an infant is born dead or dies soon after birth. Hence it is logical to study still-births and first week mortality as one problem.

The peri-natal mortality rate is the term used for still-births and first week deaths expressed as a rate per 1,000 live and still-births. It remains an obstinate problem, shows marked regional variation and is influenced by maternal age and parity, previous obstetric history, multiple pregnancy and social class.

Perinatal Mortality in Abergavenny 1959-1963.

YEAR	NUMBER OF FIRST WEEK DEATHS	NUMBER OF STILL-BIRTHS	PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE
1963	3	2	30.6
1962	2	9	71.4
1961	5	2	46.1
1960	2	5	51.3
1959	1	4	23.9

PERINATAL MORTALITY (1959-1963)

Abergavenny Borough, Abergavenny Rural District and Monmouthshire County.

YEAR	ABERGAVENTNY BOROUGH	ABERGAVENTNY RURAL DISTRICT	MONMOUTHSHIRE
1963	30.6	—	
1962	71.4	42.55	38.85
1961	46.1	28.99	39.9
1960	51.3	56.7	42.0
1959	23.9	32.0	47.7

The perinatal mortality rate for Abergavenny in 1963 is considerably less than the 1962 figure. Of course, when numbers are comparatively small there must be chance fluctuations. Yet, even after standardisation for age and parity, perinatal mortality in each social class is about 30 per cent. higher in Wales than in London, the south-eastern and southern districts. For practical purposes, the hard core of perinatal mortality includes prematurity, asphyxia and atelectasis, birth injuries and congenital malformations. Toxæmia of pregnancy seems to be the outstanding maternal factor involved. In order to reduce the prevailing rate :

- (a) more midwives are urgently required to remedy their acute shortage.
- (b) more senior obstetricians and consultant hospital beds are needed.

- (c) where mothers have to be discharged from hospital after 48 hours, more domestic helps might play a part.
- (d) some mothers require further education as ante-natal care is sometimes inadequate because these mothers see their doctors and attend ante-natal clinics only late in pregnancy.
- (e) there is also a need for further research into toxæmia of pregnancy, prematurity and congenital malformation.

Lung cancer deaths in England and Wales continue to rise. Since 1945 this disease has claimed a thousand more victims in every year so that, in 1963, there were some 25,000 deaths. It has been established beyond any reasonable doubt that the reason for this increase is due mainly to cigarette smoking. Yet most people refuse to accept this fact. Not only lung cancer but chronic bronchitis is also a crippling disease. We may have been fortunate in Abergavenny that only three people died from lung cancer in 1963, but the deaths from chronic bronchitis were significantly higher than in 1962. Chronic Bronchitis has been dubbed a "British Disease." Although not generally recognised by the public it is now the fourth commonest cause of death in this country, coming after heart disease, cancer and "stroke." Each year over 20,000 deaths are attributed to chronic bronchitis. It is an important reason for absence from work and gives rise to untold misery. As a rule, it is commoner in industrial than in rural areas, men suffer more than women, and the labourer more than the professional. It is closely related to the number of cigarettes smoked, the degree of air pollution and the recurrence of infection. The symptoms of the chronic bronchitis are often partially relieved by chemotherapy but so far, comparatively little has been done in the preventive field. The establishment of group clinics may well attract those in the early stages of chronic bronchitis or indeed, cancer, and so pave the way towards reduction in both their morbidity and mortality.

The upward trend in the fatality rate from Coronary disease and Angina continues. In Abergavenny there were 27 deaths in 1963 as compared with 24 deaths in 1962. It has been established that Coronary thrombosis is directly related to body weight, blood pressure

and cigarette smoking. Most people in this country are well aware of these relationships but information alone has not yet persuaded the indulgent to eat less, smoke less and take more exercise.

Dental disease is said to be another of today's most prevalent ailments, but dental care receives scant attention from the average individual. Most people are informed but few act and fluoridation of water supplies has met with comparatively little support despite all the evidence in its favour.

These are a few of the problems which will challenge the public health worker in the coming years as more and more attention must, of necessity, be given to prevention.

VITAL STATISTICS

		1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Area in Acres	..	2398	2398	2398	2398	2398	2398	2398	2398	2398	2398
Population (Est.)	..	9140	8970	8910	8980	9020	9030	9080	9620	9700	9710
Inhabited Houses (including houses assessed with shops according to Rate Book)	..	2796	2808	2937	2933	2922	3019	3019	3073	3299	3318
Rateable	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Value	60673	61820	98744	93147	94194	102019	104348	107504	257195	266878	
Product of 1d.											
Rate (Est.)		234	234	235	357	368	388	405	413	1000	1040

1963	M.	F.	Total
LIVE BIRTHS			
Legitimate	93	81	174
Illegitimate	4	9	13
	—	—	—
Total	97	90	187

LIVE BIRTH RATE	<i>Borough</i>	<i>Cou'ty</i>	<i>E. & W.</i>
Per 1,000 population	18.13	18.94	18.2
Comparability Factor – 1.10			
Adjusted Live Birth Rate – 18.13 x 1.10 – 19.9		County	19.32

STILL BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	—	—	—
Total	1	1	2

STILL BIRTH RATE.	<i>Borough</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>E. & W.</i>
Per 1,000 Live and still births	10.58	23.42	17.3
Per 1,000 population	0.21	0.44	

DEATHS.	M.	F.	Total
All causes	70	73	143

Death Rate per 1,000 population	<i>Borough</i>	<i>Cou'ty</i>	<i>E. & W.</i>
Comparability Factor 0.99	14.73	11.99	12.2
Adjusted Death Rate 14.73 x 0.99 – 14.58		County	13.67

	M.	F.	Total
Death from Cancer	8	12	20
Death from Lung Cancer	3	0	2

Deaths due to Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion – 0.

Maternal Mortality Rate	<i>Borough</i>	<i>Co'ty</i>
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	0	0

Infant Mortality
Total 7 (5 males and 2 females).

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (Rate per 1,000 total live births)	<i>Borough</i> 37.4	<i>Cou' ty</i> 25.57	<i>E. & W.</i> 20.9
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate – first 4 weeks (Rate per 1,000 live births)	21.4	17.10	
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Under 1 week)	12.6	13.24	
Perinatal Mortality (Still births and infant death under 1 week) per 1,000 total live and still births	30.6	35.82	

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Population.</i>	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>
1931	8490 (Estimated)	137	119	16.10	14.01
	8608 (Census)				
1938	7925 (New Borough)	115	108	14.50	13.6
1939	7832 „	118	144	15.10	18.38
1940	8407 „	122	149	14.5	17.7
1941	8769 „	130	135	14.6	15.39
1942	8468 „	134	113	18.8	13.34
1943	8174 „	127	122	15.56	13.34
1944	7931 „	139	104	17.5	13.11
1945	8275 „	141	120	17.0	14.5
1946	8439 „	147	110	17.5	13.03
1947	8427 „	152	115	18.0	13.64
1948	8532 „	146	138	17.1	16.17
1949	8597 „	134	94	15.6	10.9
1950	8534 „	130	145	14.4	16.99
1951	8904 „	161	157	18.1	17.63
1952	9058 „	154	108	17.0	11.9
1953	9070 „	140	93	15.4	10.26
1954	9140 „	143	100	15.6	10.94
1955	8970 „	128	106	14.3	11.8
1956	8910 „	143	124	16.05	13.9
1957	8980 „	131	112	14.89	12.49
1958	9020 „	171	139	18.96	15.4
1959	9030 „	163	126	18.05	13.95
1960	9080 „	151	114	16.63	11.6
1961	9620 „	150	123	15.59	12.27
1962	9700 „	159	120	16.39	12.37
1963	9710 „	187	143	18.13	14.73

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1962 AND 1963

Cause of Death	1962			1963		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	0	1	0	1	1
Meningococcal Infection	1	0	1	0	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	1	1	2	1	3	4
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	0	0	0	0	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung and Bronchus	3	1	4	3	0	3
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	0	1	1	0	0	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasm	4	4	8	4	8	12
Leukæmia, Alenkaemia	0	0	0	0	2	2
Diabetes	0	0	0	0	1	1
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	9	12	21	6	17	23
Coronary Disease, Angina	16	8	24	21	6	27
Hypertension with Heart Disease	0	0	0	0	1	1
Other Heart Disease	15	12	27	7	11	18
Other Circulatory Disease	3	3	6	3	2	5
Influenza	2	0	2	1	1	2
Pneumonia	2	0	2	5	5	10
Bronchitis	2	2	4	5	4	9
Ulcer of Stomach and/or Duodenum	0	1	1	2	1	3
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhœa	0	0	0	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	1	1	1	0	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	0	1	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations	1	1	2	2	0	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	2	6	5	8	13
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	0	1	0	0	0
Suicide	0	0	0	2	0	2
All other accidents	2	3	5	1	0	1
Total	68	52	119	70	73	143

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	1
Whooping Cough	Nil
Measles	64
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	Nil
Poliomyelitis	Nil
Erysipelas	Nil
Diphtheria	Nil
Encephalitis	Nil
Acute Primary Pneumonia	Nil
Salmonella Typhimurium	Nil
Dysentery	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

Notified :	Pulmonary	M 4	F 0	Non-Pulmonary	M 0	F 1
Deaths	Pulmonary	M 0	F 1	Non-Pulmonary	M 0	F 1

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) (Classified according to sex and age)

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Age 0-4</i>	<i>Age 5-9</i>	<i>Age 10-14</i>	<i>Age 15-24</i>	<i>Age 25 plus</i>	<i>Total</i>
Diphtheria	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	1	—	—	—	—
Menigococal Fever	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	Male	11	14	1	—	—	26
	Female	13	20	3	2	—	38
Whooping Cough	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salmonella Typhimurium	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1963.

Age	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 4 years	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5— 9 years	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—14 years	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—19 years	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—29 years	..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
30—39 years	..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
40—49 years	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
50—59 years	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
60 and over	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	..	4	—	1	—	—	—	1

VACCINATIONS AGAINST SMALL POX

		Numbers Vaccinated										
Age groups	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Under 1 year	15	35	57	64	71	81	86	50	60	7
1-4 years	4	31	37	22	16	22	30	38	282	7
5-14 years	3	9	4	9	12	12	6	10	1332	—
15 years plus	9	1	25	28	17	9	15	15	2564	3
Total	31	76	123	123	116	124	137	113	4238	17

There were also two re-vaccinations.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH

		Numbers Immunised							
Age Groups	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	
Under 5 yrs	141	109	118 Diph. 115 Whc.	135 Diph. 105 Whc.	109 Diph. 78 Whc.	121 Diph. 101 Whc.	114 Diph. 109 Whc.	95 Diph. 95 Whc.	104 Tetanus.
5-14 years	109	6	210 Diph. 3 Whc.	14 Diph. 1 Whc.	260 Diph. 0 Whc.	8 Diph. 129 Whc.	118 Diph. 3 Whc.	1 Diph. 0 Whc.	3 Tetanus
Totals	250	115	338 Diph. 118 Whc.	149 Diph. 106 Whc.	369 Diph. 78 Whc.	129 Diph. 230 Whc.	232 Diph. 112 Whc.	96 Diph. 95 Whc.	109 Tetanus

In addition to the above, 19 children were given "Booster" diphtheria prophylactic injections and 13 "Booster" Tetanus injections.

Yours faithfully,

S. M. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply for the town continues to be derived from the reservoir at Llwyndu, supplemented at periods during the year by a supply from the Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board's trunk main which passes near the town.

The reservoir is fed from 13 springs within the catchment area of the slopes of the Sugar Loaf, also at periods during the year from the Kibby stream which rises in this area.

The springs are divided into two groups, the Lodge Springs and the Llwyndu Springs.

A further supply to the reservoir can be provided by a borehole well from which the water can be drawn by a vertical electric pump at a maximum flow of 60,000 gallons per day.

The yield from the Lodge Spring ranged from 90,000 gallons per day at the driest period of the year to 480,000 gallons per day during the wet period. Similarly the yield from the Llwyndu Springs ranged from 35,000 to 260,000 gallons per day. The borehole was brought into operation during the dry periods in July, August and September and supplied some 40,000 gallons per day. During this period also and up to November 8th, supplies were taken from the Newport main in amounts ranging from 160,000 gallons per day in July and August to 315,000 gallons per day during September and down to 120,000 gallons per day to the end of the period.

The capacity of the reservoir was such that following a reduction in storage of 70,000 gallons per day in January, the level rose at the rate of seven inches per day in February, reaching full capacity in March and maintaining this level until mid-July when it dropped at a rate of two inches per day to a maximum low of six feet below top level in September. Thereafter there was an increasing storage to full by November and this was maintained at the end of the year.

Consumption fluctuated during the year between 560,000 gallons per day (in July and August) and 850,000 gallons in January. The excessive fluctuation is accounted for by the number of bursts in services, etc., which followed the abnormal winter weather.

In order that the wastage of water should be controlled as far as possible, the Council's Water Inspector maintained constant vigilance on fittings to such an extent that by his actions above 210 bursts were repaired, 157 ball valves adjusted or rewashed, 162 defective bib taps were remedied and one repair was carried out to the mains.

The quality of the water was maintained at a high level of purity throughout the year. Daily checks on free chlorine were carried out by the Reservoir Attendant while nine samples of treated water and four samples of raw water sent for bacteriological examination proved to be satisfactory.

Of the 18 dwellings situated on higher ground beyond the range of the mains supply the standard of the supplies from springs is very high. Two samples taken from a slightly suspect supply showed no organisms to be present.

Eighteen dwellings in the town serving 40 people are supplied by stand pipe.

9,615 persons living in 3,255 dwellings are supplied by services direct to the premises.

Fluoridation of water supplies were considered from time to time during the year by the Public Health Committee when Ministry circulars and other representations were discussed. The peculiar circumstances which apply in the case of this Authority are such, however, that it is not possible for any decision to be made in this matter.

Primarily this is a matter for the Health Authority who in this instance is the Monmouthshire County Council, and as yet no request has been received from them for fluoridation.

Even should this be so, the difficulties of administering the treatment would be aggravated by the fact that during certain periods of the year the supply would be affected by water from the Newport mains. The fact that the town's supply naturally carried 0.5 parts per million of fluoride would make it virtually impossible to regulate the overall dosage during these periods. Furthermore, the attitude of the Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board to this question is not available so that the Council can do nothing but await developments.

SWIMMING BATHS

Ten samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination and were found to be highly satisfactory.

The weather during the year was particularly unfavourable to outdoor swimming but, notwithstanding this the standard maintained was exceptionally high.

School instruction classes had a very high percentage of passes and gained excellent results in the higher awards.

Apart from the 14 bronze medallions and other Bronze Crosses and Intermediate Certificates obtained in the Royal Life Saving Examinations, 30 Bronze, 22 Silver and 15 Gold Awards were obtained in the New Survival Test inaugurated by the governing body of the Amateur Swimming Association. This test is one of endurance and the candidates are to be commended for their fine performances.

It was apparent that the Swimming Bath Superintendent experienced difficulty in changing the water at the requisite rate, because the capacity of the existing electric pump was not sufficient to allow for simultaneous circulation in the main and additional baths. The Public Health Committee were agreed that a more powerful pump should be installed before next season.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

In spite of the extreme difficulties which beset him during the early part of the year, the Sewage Works Manager successfully coped with the inflow into the works.

In common with most of such works at this time the extreme conditions experienced as a result of the abnormal weather meant the works were virtually out of commission for a short period leading to a build-up of septic sludge which had to be adequately disposed of.

The thaw, which followed, was accompanied by heavy rains, caused the storm water tanks to be used to capacity, making it impossible for normal de-sludging.

Nevertheless, Mr. Fleet dealt with these problems to such a degree that it was only for a short period in April that complaints of smell were received.

Throughout the year, one or two days in each month, the works were brought to a standstill by electrical power failures or rendered less efficient by periods of low voltage.

By July the flow to the works was improved when Messrs. Weeks, of Brynmawr, ceased slaughtering operations at Abergavenny.

It became apparent, however, that more sludge drying beds would have to be constructed to allow greater facilities for the disposal of sludge, and in April the Council's consulting Engineers so advised. Preparation works on this scheme resulted in an inquiry by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, following which it was anticipated that the scheme would be approved.

MODERNISATION OF SEWERAGE SYSTEM

Before reporting on the work carried out during this year to bring this scheme to fruition, it is perhaps well to recapitulate the circumstances which have led up to the present situation.

In June, 1955, following a Ministry of Housing and Local Government inquiry into the need for a new sewage disposal works, the Ministry's letter of approval contained a recommendation that the sewerage system should be modernised to properly deal with the drainage of the Borough.

The preparatory work was put in hand in 1958 when in the October of that year reports were received from the Council's Consultant Engineer and the Borough Treasurer as to the technical requirements and financial effect of carrying out this scheme. Between then and March, 1962, plans and modifications were considered for submission to the Ministry for approval.

Unfortunately, however, the country entered into a period when a national curtailment on capital expenditure was necessary, and it was not until early 1962 that the time became opportune for a re-assessment of the problem. The remainder of the year was taken up with difficult negotiations with the Usk River Board for consent to discharge storm water outfalls into the river and with the appropriate owners for consent to carry out borehole testing along the proposed route of the trunk sewer.

In fact, these negotiations were continued into 1963, and while it was possible to complete the contract for borehole testing in February the objections of the Usk River Board were not overcome. The requirements of this body were such that, bearing in mind the capital cost of the scheme envisaged by the size of the Borough, the modification required would place too great a financial burden on the town. The Consulting Engineers were asked to devise a compromise which would be acceptable to the River Authorities. This was done, and in May the Council were informed that the modified scheme might be acceptable on certain conditions.

In view of this, preparatory work on paper could now proceed, and by the end of the year it was reported that full preliminary details in relation to the scheme, with the necessary modifications, were ready for examination by the Public Health Committee. The result of their consideration was that the Council were recommended to adopt the scheme for modernisation of the Sewerage system as prepared and to submit the same to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval to go to tender.

HOUSING

IMPROVEMENTS GRANTS

It has been ascertained from the Borough Engineer's Department that four Discretionary Grants and nine Standard Grants were made during the year, and the work completed. Four Landlords and nine Owner-Occupiers were concerned.

Work in respect of a further ten successful applications for Standard Grants and eight Discretionary Grants have not yet been completed.

SLUM CLEARANCE

The completion of the clearance of the south side of Castle Street was reduced to the demolition of the Surgery forming part of the outbuildings of Old Court.

The difficulties surrounding this operation were overcome in respect of the Ministry's Supplementary list of Ancient Buildings, but it was still impossible to find suitable alternative accommodation for the medical practitioners now occupying the building. However there is a possibility that the suitable conversion of the Old Fire Station might prove acceptable, and it is hoped that this will be brought about early next year.

Preparatory work for the treatment of Mill Street as the next Clearance Area was commenced so that representation may be made to the Council immediately it becomes apparent that they will be in a position to rehouse these families displaced.

REHOUSING

In order to proceed with the above and other Slum Clearance Programmes to which the Council are committed in principle, and to provide further houses for general needs, continued consideration was given to the proposed housing site on the acquired Crocsonnen Farm Site.

Frequent prolonged discussions were held with the representatives of Messrs. Gregory Housing Ltd. and in some instances with the County Planning Officer on the form of layout, the types of dwellings to be erected and the facilities that might be provided. The Council's requirements were noted by the Architects for incorporation into the plans, etc., they would be submitting for the Council's approval.

The magnitude of the proposed scheme, both in the number of dwellings and from a financial aspect, is such that a great deal of detailed examination of the project as it develops is most essential, and the meetings of the Housing Development, Town Planning and Allotments Committee were largely taken up with this. A re-assessment of the housing needs of the Borough was undertaken towards the end of the year and this indicated a requirement of 618 dwellings. The Committee calculated that this could best be met by building in the following proportions :—

1 bedroom type of accommodation	..	..	120
2 bedroom type of accommodation	..	..	174
3 bedroom type of accommodation	..	..	292
4 bedroom type of accommodation	..	..	20
giving a total of 606, providing a density of 15.5 dwellings per acre.			

Consideration was also given in the general layout plan for the provision of a certain number of private houses to be built in a portion of the acquired site.

During the year progress was also made on the private development at Coed-y-Brain and other sites. In total, four dwellings were completed by private enterprise.

By the completion of Charles Close the Council were able to transfer the occupants from Westgate Buildings, so releasing this block for demolition, in order that the work of the realignment in Tudor Street could be proceeded with.

Altogether the Council completed 10 houses and 24 flats.

Forty-two applicants were rehoused in new dwellings. Eight being carried over from last year, while 36 were rehoused in relets. In 29 of these cases rehousing was by the voluntary transfer of tenants either from one type of dwelling more suited to another applicant, or because the Housing Management Committee were of the opinion that an application for a transfer for another reason was well justified.

In answer to an inquiry from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government it was anticipated that this Borough's contribution to the Government's target for housing would be 628 dwellings in three years with a possible further 380 from private enterprise.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1.	Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.	
(a)	Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	34
(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose ..	83
2.	(a) Number of Dwellings (included under Sub-heading (1) above which are inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ..	153
(b)	Inspections made for that purpose	187

Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

Houses in Clearance Areas declared under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957

Number of Houses demolished :—

Unfit for human habitation	Nil
Included by reason of bad arrangement	Nil
On land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957 ..	Nil

Persons Displaced :—

From houses unfit for human habitation	Nil
From houses included by reason of bad arrangement ..	Nil
From houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	Nil

HOUSES NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS

Number of Houses demolished :—

As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	Nil
Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by Medical Officer of Health	8
Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under Local Act	Nil
Houses included in unfitness orders made under para 2 of the Second Schedule to the Town and Country Planning Act, 1959	Nil

Persons displaced :—

From houses to be demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17 (1) Housing Act	Nil
From Local Authority owned houses certified by the Medical Officer of Health	63
From houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under Local Acts	Nil
From houses included in unfitness orders	Nil

Families Displaced :—

From houses to be demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	Nil
From Local Authority owned houses certified by the Medical Officer of Health	16
From houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under the Local Acts	Nil
From houses included in unfitness orders	Nil

UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

Number of Houses :—

Under Section 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957, and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961	5
Under Sections 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	Nil

Persons Displaced :—

From Houses to be closed :	
Under Section 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1947, and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961	5
Under Sections 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	Nil

Families Displaced :—

From Houses to be closed :	
Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957, and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961	5
Under Sections 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	Nil

Parts of Buildings Closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957 :—

Number of Houses	Nil
Number of Persons displaced	Nil
Number of Families displaced	Nil

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

1. PROCEEDINGS UNDER HOUSING ACT :

a. No. Informal Notices served	..	..	..	Nil
b. No. Informal Notices complied with	..	..	..	Nil
c. No. Notices served under Sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	..	..	..	Nil
No. Remedied	..	..	..	Nil

2. PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACT :

a. Following informal action, No. remedied	..	27
b. No. Statutory Notices served	..	7
c. No. complied with (by owners)	..	2

RENTS ACT, 1957

One application for Certificate of Disrepair was received during the year.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Routine inspections were continued throughout the year and some minor contraventions were brought to the notice of the responsible persons verbally. In no instance was it found necessary to recommend statutory action.

FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED, 1963

CANNED FOODS

Fruit	.. 192 tins	Meat	.. 87 tins
Milk	.. 31 tins	Vegetables	.. 113 tins
Soup	.. 2 tins	Fish	.. 57 tins

MISCELLANEOUS FOODS

Rice Pudding	.. 4 tins	Beans	.. 10 tins
Sausage	.. 1 tin	Pickle	.. 1 jar
Butter	.. ½-lb	Margarine	.. ½-lb
Flour	.. 3-lb bag	Cream	.. 13 tins
Jam	.. 2 jars	Cheese	2 portions
Mustard	.. 1 Jar	Spaghetti	.. 2' tins
Chickens	.. 10	Went Fish	.. 28-lbs.
Sultanas	.. 60-lbs.	Currents	.. 28-lbs.

MEAT AND OFFAL FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES CONDEMNED AT RETAILERS' PREMISES

138-lbs. of Hind Beef
10-lbs. Ox Kidneys
10-lbs. Lambs Liver
42-lbs. Pigs' Heads
60-lbs. Bovine Livers
24-lbs. Bovine Lungs

226-lbs. Beef
68-lbs. Pig
60-lbs. Bovine Heads
10½-lbs. Sheeps Heads
10-lbs. Pigs Livers

ICE-CREAM

Of the 32 premises registered with this Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1958, only three are used for the manufacture of Ice-Cream.

One uses the Heat Treatment, the other two adopting the cold mix method.

All the manufactures comply with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

Nineteen samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination and as result of such examination eight samples were Grade 1, one sample in Grade 3, five samples Grade 3 and five samples Grade 4.

RODENT CONTROL

The rat population of the town remains at an almost negligible level. This is undoubtedly due to the vigilance of the Rodent Operator who continuously surveys and re-surveys all those places that, by experience, we have found most ready to become re-infested. The importance of such routine work has been proved by the fact that when, for some reason this work has had to be neglected, a build-up has occurred.

The bi-annual treatment of the sewers is a significant factor in the control of surface infestations, and although the obvious results of the treatment are not spectacular, the effect is apparent in the incidence of surface infestations.

However the rat menace is still with us and it behoves those people whose activities or business is such that it forms an attraction to rodents to take such precautions as are necessary to prevent their premises from being invaded by these pests.

The staff of the Public Health Department is ready at all times to advise on the precautions to be taken.

Statistically the work of the Rodent Operators is hereby appended :—

DESTRUCTION OF RATS IN SEWERS

First Annual Treatment, 10th June to 22nd June, 1963

Total number of manholes in foul and connected system	..	299
Number baited	.. .. .	160
Number showing takes of bait	.. .. .	Nil

Second Annual Treatment, 9th December to 21st December, 1963

Total number of manholes in foul and connected system	..	299
Total baited	.. .. .	161
Number showing takes of bait	.. .. .	11

In the first treatment an anti-coagulant poison was used, and zinc phosphide was employed in the second.

SURFACE INFESTATIONS

Unless a quick kill was urgently required when zinc phosphide was used, surface infestations were controlled with Warfarin.

The following is a summary of the work carried out :—

Total number of properties in this area—dwelling houses	..	3255
All other including business properties	.. .. .	764

Inspections :—

Number of Local Authority properties inspected	..	19
Number of business properties inspected	.. .. .	237
Number of private dwellings inspected	.. .. .	238
Number of agricultural properties inspected	..	5

Total inspections, including re-inspections	995
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Total number found to be infested :—

By Rats	71
By Mice	27

Total number of treatments carried out by Rodent Operator	..	98
Number of re-treatments	.. .. .	9
Total number of treatments including re-treatments	..	107

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1957

The following represents the distribution of trades in the Borough :—

	Number of Factories	Mechanical Power used	With Power not used
Agricultural Machinery Repairs	2	2	0
Building and Joinery	10	7	3
Bakery	6	6	0
Blacksmiths	2	2	0
Bean Flour Products	1	1	0
Boot and Shoe Repairs	4	4	0
Cellulose Spraying	3	3	0
Clock and Watch Repair	3	0	3
Cement Products	1	1	0
Dress Alterations	2	0	2
Dry Cleaners	1	1	0
Egg Grading	2	2	0
Electrical Repairs (including radio)	7	0	7
Electroplating	1	1	0
Firewood	1	1	0
Fish Friers	3	3	0
Florists	4	0	4
Gas Undertaking	1	1	0
Grain Winnowing	1	1	0
Ice-Cream	3	1	2
Ironworks and Engineers	2	2	0
Leather Products	1	1	0
Meat—Small Goods	5	5	0
Mineral Waters	1	1	0
Monumental Masonry	2	2	0
Motor Repairs	8	8	0
Printing	3	3	0
Paper Cutting and Packing	1	1	0
Slaughterhouses	1	1	0
Soft Toy Manufacturers	1	1	0
Sugar Confectionery	1	1	0
Textile Products	2	1	0
Telephone Engineers	1	1	0
Tent Repairs	1	0	1
Tinsmiths	1	0	1
Tyre Repairs	1	1	0
Upholstery and French Polishing	1	0	1
Welding	1	1	0
Wool Staplers	2	0	2

OUTWORKERS :—Nine outworkers are listed. Four concerned with the altering of and repair of wearing apparel and five with soft toy manufacture.

Twenty-eight inspections were carried out and the following is a statement of cases from which defects were found :—

NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	0	0	0
Overcrowding	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable Temperature	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate Ventilation	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective Floor and Drainage	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Convenience—					
(a) Insufficient	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTION

In July the firm of Messrs. Weeks, Brynmawr, left to recommence at their own reconstructed slaughterhouse.

By the end of the year the premises had returned to normal and the general standard of cleanliness had improved to a highly satisfactory degree.

The Meat Inspection Regulations were put into effect, and following the date of operations all meat was stamped following inspection. In view of the fact that 100 per cent. meat inspection has always been carried out at this slaughterhouse there were no difficulties experienced in operating the Regulations.

Five persons were licensed as Slaughtermen.

**CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED
IN WHOLE OR IN PART.**

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	2759	212	308	10166	5397	—
Number inspected	2759	212	308	10166	5397	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :						
Whole carcasea condemned	1	2	1	9	4	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	372	77	4	193	134	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. or Cysticerci	13.5	37.3	1.6	2.0	2.6	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	107	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B. ..	0.04	—	—	—	2.0	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—				
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—				
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—				

Weight of meat and offal condemned as a result of Tubercular Infections :—

Carcase meat	..	..	1068-lbs.
Offal	..	..	574-lbs.

Weight of meat and offal condemned as a result of disease and conditions other than Tuberculosis:—

Carcase meat	..	..	3764-lbs.
Offal	..	..	7168-lbs.

Total weight of meat and offal condemned .. 12574-lbs.

RAINFALL, 1963

Rain Gauge	..	Diameter of Funnel, 5-inches.	
		Height of Top	Above Ground, 1 foot
			Above Sea Level, 215 feet.
			Situation : Bailey Park.

<i>Month</i>			<i>Total Depth inches</i>
January	..	..	1.0
February	..	..	2.5
March	..	..	7.75
April	..	..	4.0
May	..	..	1.5
June	..	..	3.25
July	..	..	2.25
August	..	..	2.5
September	..	..	1.75
October	..	..	2.0
November	..	..	10.25
December	..	..
Total			40.5

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen and Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

ROGER J. HOWELLS,

Public Health Inspector.

